



McKinney-Vento 101:

Understanding the Rights of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Suzanne Peck - Coordinator

Title IX-A Homeless Education

Title I-D Neglected, Delinquent & At-Risk

Supporting Schools and Students to Achieve

SHERRI YBARRA, ED.S., SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Learning Targets



- I better understand the issues around homelessness in the state of Idaho.
- I am aware of how homelessness can affect the educational outcomes.
- I can identify elements needed to provide education services and supports for stability to students/families experiencing homelessness.



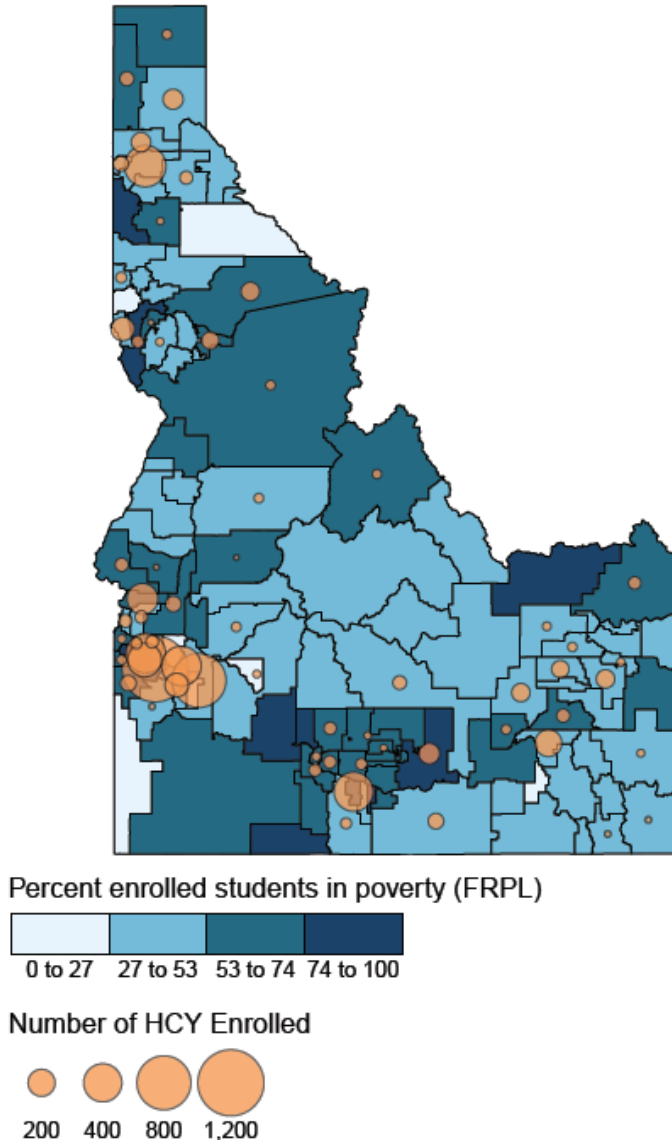
Homelessness in Idaho



Homelessness in Idaho - Data



Idaho – Homeless enrollment by LEA poverty level



SY 2013-2014

6,447

SY 2014-2015

7,162

SY 2015-2016

7,143

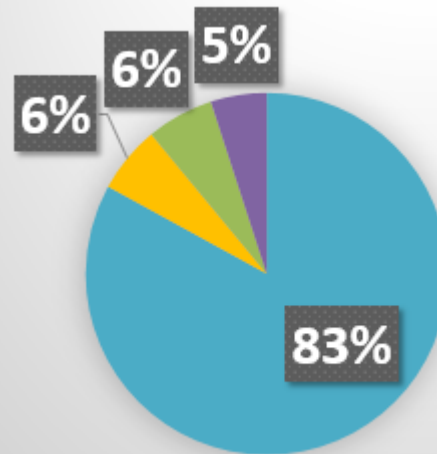
SY 2016-2017

7,816

SY 2017-2018

7,820

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 7,000 8,000 9,000



Doubled up – 83%

Shelters – 6%

Hotels/Motels – 6%

Unsheltered – 5%

Causes of Homelessness



- Lack of affordable housing
- Poverty
- Health problems/Medical bills
- Domestic violence
- Natural and other disasters
- Abuse/neglect (unaccompanied youth)

Causes of Homelessness (2)



Generational Poverty...

...is 2 or more generations of a family that have never owned a home.



Photo credit: Adam Cotterell, Boise State Public Radio

Situational Poverty...

...is due to a death, divorce, domestic violence, medical issues/bills, etc.



Photo credit: CATCH inc.

Homeless Liaisons - 10 Duties



1. Identify Students
2. Enrollment
3. Receive services
4. Referrals
5. Inform of rights
6. Public awareness
7. Mediate disputes
8. Inform of services
9. Professional Development
10. Support Unaccompanied Youth

Learning Targets (1)



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Education and Homelessness

The Context



Homelessness Creates Barriers



- Students experiencing homelessness may
 - Be unable to meet school enrollment requirements.
 - Move around and change schools a lot.
 - Be hungry, tired, and stressed.
 - Not have school supplies or a quiet place to study.
 - Not have access to reliable transportation
 - Not have a parent or guardian to help them (unaccompanied youth).

Homelessness Affects Education



- Students experiencing homelessness are more likely to -
 - Be chronically absent from school
 - Get lower grades
 - Have special education needs
 - Score poorly on assessment tests
 - Drop out of school

The Preventive Value of Education



- Children in quality preschool programs are more likely to graduate from high school and own homes
- High school graduation is associated with an array of positive life outcomes (↓ unemployment, ↓ criminal justice involvement, ↑ income, ↑ health outcomes, ↑ life span)
- 95%+ of the jobs created since the Great Recession have gone to workers with at least some post-secondary education

The Preventive Value of Education (2)



Particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness



346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk

162%

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000 had a 162% higher risk

83%

Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk

120%

LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk

33%

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk

200%

Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk



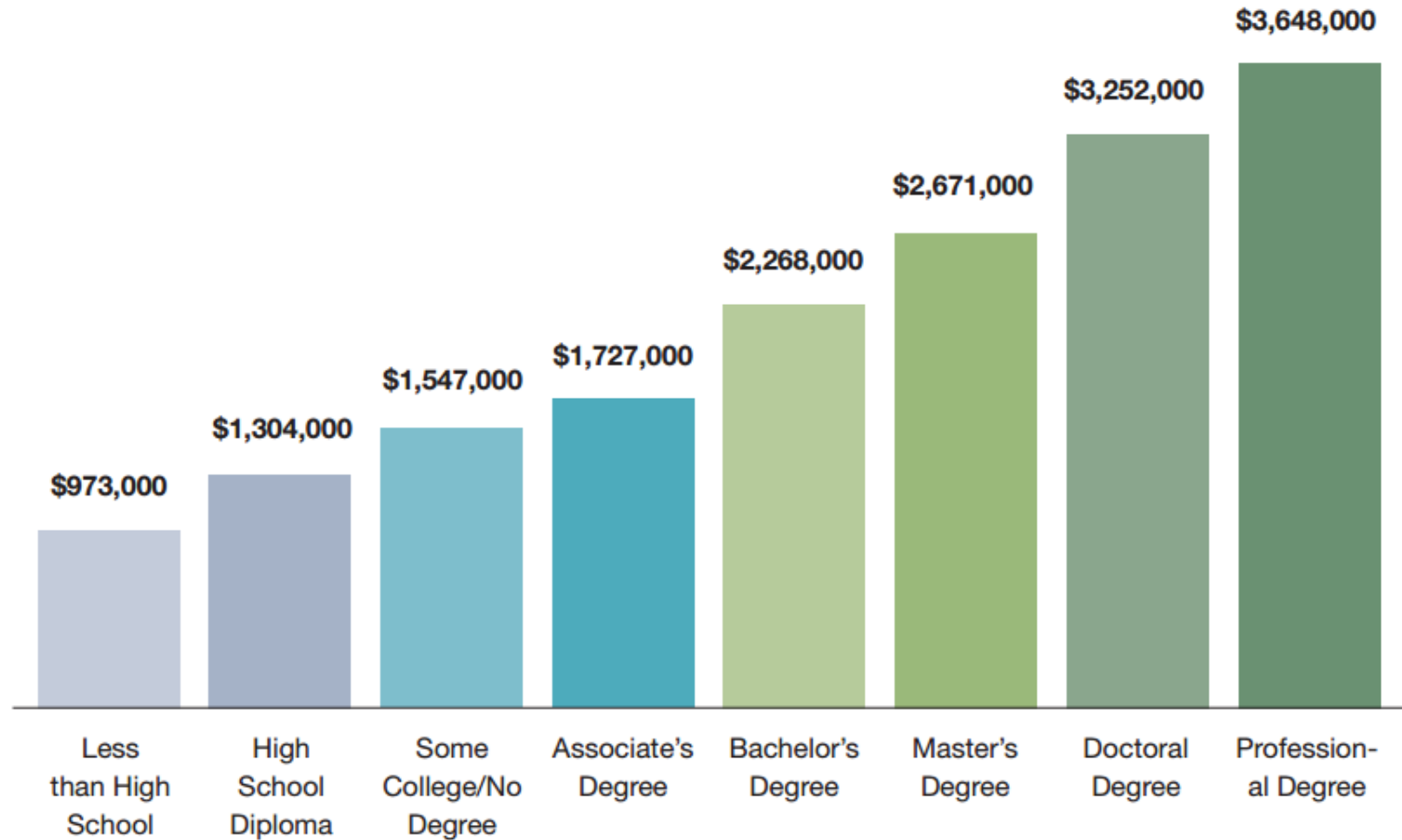
Findings from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago | voicesofyouthcount.org

VOICES OF
YOUTH COUNT

The Preventive Value of Education (3)



FIGURE 1: MEDIAN LIFETIME EARNINGS BY HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2009 DOLLARS



GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY

Learning Targets (2)



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Homeless Education Program

Goal - Provide **STABILITY** to kids in school



MV Supports & Services:

- Identify eligible students
- Immediate enrollment
- School of Origin – Best Interest
 - Dispute Resolution
- Free Lunch & Transportation
- Identify & Remove Barriers
 - Full or partial credit
 - Absences
- Full participation
- Higher Education
- Other supports

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



McKinney-Vento Definition of Homelessness

- Children or youth who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**, including children and youth:
 - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospitals

Identification – cont.



- Living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances

[42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)]

- The term *unaccompanied youth* includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)].

Determinations of Eligibility



- The **local liaison** has the authority and responsibility to ensure that eligible students are identified; this should be a collaborative effort with school personnel, and through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(i)].
- Eligibility determinations should be made on a **case-by-case basis**, considering the circumstances of each student.
- Pay close attention to the **legislative wording**, as it may provide needed clarity.

Immediate Enrollment



- Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to **immediate school enrollment**
 - even if lacking paperwork normally required for enrollment; or
 - even if having missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(i)].
- ***Enrollment*** is defined as “attending classes and participating fully in school activities” [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(1)].

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to attend
 - **The school of origin** [\[42 U.S.C. § 11432\(g\)\(3\)\(I\)\(i\)\]](#)
 - The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed, or
 - The school in which the child or youth was last enrolled
 - Includes public preschools
 - Includes receiving schools
 - **The local attendance area school** [\[42 U.S.C. § 11432\(g\)\(3\)\(A\)\(ii\)\]](#)
 - Any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend

Best Interest of the Child



- In determining best interest, the school district shall
 - **Presume** that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth
 - **Consider student-centered factors** related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety, giving priority to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth

Dispute Resolution



- If, after conducting the best interest determination, the district determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, **the district must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal** [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(B)].

Dispute Resolution – cont.



- The child or youth shall be **immediately enrolled** in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals [\[42 U.S.C. § 11432\(g\)\(3\)\(E\)\(i\)\]](#).
- Students must **receive all services** for which they are eligible until final resolution of all disputes and appeals [\(EHCY Guidance, Question K-7\)](#).

Transportation to School of Origin



- Transportation must be provided to and from the school of origin at the request of the parent or guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the local liaison.

[42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)]

- Arrange services with your transportation department
- Inter-district Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Child Nutrition Program



- All HY and UHY are categorically eligible for free school meals
 - Provide written notification of eligibility to Child Nutrition Department
 - Families do not have to fill out an additional Free/Reduced form

Barriers



- Policy - enrollment
- Full/partial credit
- Graduation
- Absences

Higher Education



- School counselors must assist students experiencing homelessness with **college preparation and readiness** [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(K)].
- Local liaisons must inform unaccompanied youth about their **independent student status** on the FAFSA and assist with verification of this status [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(x)(III)].
- **Fee waivers** are available for AP tests, the ACT, the SAT, and college applications.

Full Participation



- Extra Curricular
- Field trips
- Advanced courses
- Intervention support

Students experiencing homelessness

- Must receive **comparable services**, including transportation [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(4)].
- Are categorically eligible for support under **Title I, Part A**, including supports provided through the Title I, Part A homeless set-aside.
- Must be included in **special education** child find efforts and provided with special education services, when needed.

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Questions?

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